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Liberal and Civic Studies Program

Saint Mary's College of California

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LIBERAL AND CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Students in the Liberal and Civic Studies (L&CS) Program take five L&CS core courses. All other courses required for this program are offered by other academic departments of the College.

The L&CS Program is a broad integrative course of study that seeks the education of the whole person. In addition to traditional academic goals, the program emphasizes critical inquiry, civic and environmental responsibility, cultural awareness, ethical values, active citizenship, and self-assessment. Academics, social issues, and the arts, are integrated through coursework and service-learning experiences.

As an interdisciplinary program, L&CS fosters the development of a disciplined mind, one that honors the great ideas of the past, examines new ideas across disciplines, and strives to understand the important issues of our times from multiple perspectives. In support of the Lasallian mission of Saint Mary's College, L&CS also promotes compassionate understanding of others and a sense of community that bridges diverse cultures and transcends national boundaries. The L&CS faculty and Advisory Board believes that this program is particularly conducive to the development of well-educated individuals who are uniquely prepared to take on the role of responsible active citizenship in a democracy.

The three guiding principles of the L&CS Program are breadth, depth and integration. Breadth is provided through a balance of required and optional courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, language, and kinesiology; depth is provided through a chosen minor/concentration in one of Saint Mary's departmental disciplines; integration is provided through the nine key courses required of all L&CS students: four Collegiate Seminar courses and five L&CS courses (Culture and Civic Responsibility, Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community, Modern Global Issues, Senior Capstone I (Democracy and Active Citizenship or Education, Democracy and Active Citizenship, and Senior Capstone II (Self-Assessment and Portfolio).

To fulfill its mission, the L&CS Program offers three academic tracks, which are described below.

FACULTY

Linda Saulsby, M.A., *Director of Liberal & Civic Studies Program*

Deepak Sawhney, Ph.D., *Associate Professor*

Monica Fitzgerald, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor*

Rashaan Meneses, M.F.A., *Adjunct Assistant Professor*

Mindy LeVu Ware, M.A., J.D., *Lecturer*

CIVIC TRACK

This four-year track is for undergraduate students who are interested in a broad and general liberal arts program. The civic track in the Liberal and Civic Studies Program is an excellent choice for students who wish to pursue a creative and rigorous program of interdisciplinary studies as preparation for a future career in law, social work, public service, counseling, communications, business or for future academic work at the graduate level.

EDUCATION TRACK

The education track is a four-year program designed for students who wish to become elementary teachers. The students in this track are provided with knowledge in a variety of disciplines to support their subject matter preparation and completion of the CSET (California Subject Examinations for Teachers). At the end of the four years, students earn a B. A. in Liberal and Civic Studies and continue their preparation for teaching by entering a credential program of their choice.

TEACHERS FORTOMORROW

Incoming freshman students and qualifying sophomores who are committed to becoming elementary teachers, may apply for the Teachers for Tomorrow (TFT) Program. This special program enables students to integrate education coursework and field experiences in elementary schools with their undergraduate course of study. Students proceed through the TFT Program as cohort groups, taking many of their courses and having all of their field experiences with other members of their cohort.

TFT students fulfill most of the same requirements as students of the L&CS Program civic and education tracks; additional courses in education and field experiences replace some of the elective courses they might normally take. They earn their bachelor's degree at the end of four years and their multiple-subject credential at the end of their fifth year. Students may also pursue a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree in their fifth year at Saint Mary's by fulfilling additional coursework and research components. To be admitted to the program, incoming freshman students must demonstrate a strong academic record in high school, including at least three years of successful study of a single foreign language. Sophomores applying to the TFT Program must also demonstrate a strong academic record in their undergraduate work and the ability to complete program requirements within the normal graduation time frame. Students are encouraged to complete foreign language requirements before admission.

Prospective students must apply separately to the TFT Program. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Liberal and Civic Studies Program office or online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/liberal-civic-studies.

ADVISORY BOARD OF THE LIBERAL & CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Linda Saulsby, *Director, Liberal and Civic Studies*

Monica Fitzgerald, *Liberal and Civic Studies*

Jenny Maquire, *Education*

Rashaan Meneses, *Liberal & Civic Studies*

Kathy Perez, *Education*

Deepak Sawhney, *Liberal & Civic Studies*

Frances Sweeney, *Modern Languages*

Ted Tsukahara, *Integral Studies*

Marshall Welch, *Catholic Institute for Lasallian Studies*

Claire Williams, *Kinesiology*

LEARNING GOALS

Upon successfully completing the L&CS Program, students will be able to:

1. Engage in critical thinking through reading, writing, discussion, and service that synthesizes empirical and theoretical knowledge through breadth, depth, and integration of studies.
2. Examine and address the social justice issues confronting our world through rigorous coursework and community engagement, and consider individual and collective responsibility for the common good.
3. Articulate ideas and examine assumptions about faith, race, class, gender, sexuality, and other dimensions of diversity and difference.
4. Demonstrate, through written and oral self-assessment and reflection, an understanding of the impact of their own academic learning experiences.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

L&CS 121 Culture and Civic Responsibility

**L&CS 122 Environmental Responsibility
in a Global Community**

L&CS 123 Modern Global Issues

**Senior Capstone I Democracy and Active Citizenship
or Education, Democracy and Active Citizenship**

Senior Capstone II Assessment and Portfolio (.50 credit)

In the depth and breadth requirements listed below, specific course requirements may vary by the specific L&CS academic track. Substitutions to the L&CS-recommended course schedule are made with the approval of the L&CS academic advisor and the program director.

English: English 4, 5

Religious Studies: TRS 097 and one upper-division course.

January Term: A January Term course is required of all students for each academic year in attendance at Saint Mary's College. During one January Term, students preparing to be elementary teachers are required to take Field Experience in Education. *Prerequisite:* **L&CS 121.**

Fine or Performing Arts: One course in the history, theory, philosophy or aesthetics of art, drama, dance or music; one studio production or presentation course (may be for .25 credit or more).

Foreign Language: Students are required to complete sufficient college level courses in a language other than English to achieve demonstrable intermediate-level competency (equivalent to four terms of college level work). Students with native ability in a language other than English may have this requirement waived by demonstrating oral, written and reading skills equivalent to at least intermediate college-level work (four completed terms).

Kinesiology: One full-credit course. Education and TFT track students take **Kinesiology 103:** Physical Education in the Elementary School.

History: Any full-credit course. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take United States history.

Life Science: One course and lab. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Biology 50–51:** General Biology & Lab.

Mathematics: Two courses in mathematics or computer science. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Mathematics 1** and **101**, or **Mathematics 27** and **101**, or **Mathematics 27** and **28**, or **Mathematics 27** and **38**.

Physical Science: One course and lab.

Psychology: **Psychology 1** and an upper-division psychology class. Education track students take **Psychology 140** or **Education 144**. TFT students are required to take **Education 144**.

MINOR

Students select a minor from established departmental minors or approved interdisciplinary minors. All L&CS students must complete a minimum of four one-credit upper-division courses in their minor even if the department requires fewer than four. Whenever possible, the minor must include a course with a multicultural or global focus.

Students should plan their minor with the assistance of their L&CS academic advisor.

For more information on the Liberal & Civic Studies Program, please see our website at:
stmarys-ca.edu/liberal-civic-studies

PREREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this program with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C– or better in the prerequisite course.

C O U R S E S

021 Culture and Civic Responsibility

This course introduces students to program themes, including diversity (issues of race, class and gender), the environment, democracy, the arts and service learning. Lectures and discussions are complimented by a cultural workshop, a visit to Glide Memorial Church and attendance at art events. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab.

Prerequisites: English 4, and level 2 of foreign language. Sophomore standing required. Satisfies American Diversity, Community Engagement, and Common Good of the Core Curriculum. Offered in the fall.

122 Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community

Taken the semester immediately following L&CS 021 whenever possible, this course focuses on the natural world in which we live, and the complex interrelationship between human activities, the values which determine these activities and their consequences for the environment. Different societies' belief systems along with their responsibility and attitudes toward the environment are examined. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites: L&CS 021, English 5, Collegiate Seminar 1. Satisfies Community Engagement and Common Good of the Core Curriculum. Offered in the spring.*

123 Modern Global Issues

The purpose of this course is to gain broad-based exposure to some of the cultural, political and economic issues related to and arising from the processes of globalization. Students will study recent critical dialogues and philosophies of globalization, including issues of ethnicity/race, gender, identity, urban culture, post-nationalism, multiculturalism and postcolonial studies. Students are required to participate in class, lead discussions, write essays and news article responses, give an oral presentation and complete a midterm exam. *Prerequisites: L&CS 021 or permission of instructor. Satisfies Global Perspectives and Common Good of the Core Curriculum. Offered fall and spring.*

126 Praxis: Advising (.25)

This advising praxis course is required for all students in the *Teachers for Tomorrow* program. *Offered in the fall and spring and meets for eight sessions.*

127 Praxis: Community Service (.25)

129 Praxis: REACH Program (.25)

The Praxis courses are a sequence of optional .25-credit courses. Offered every semester, these courses enable students to involve themselves in structured community service, environmental, public policy or education-related fieldwork. In addition to fieldwork, students meet to discuss their experiences and produce a culminating paper or project. These courses may be repeated for credit as content varies. *Satisfies Community Engagement of the Core Curriculum.*

124 Senior Capstone I

Education, Democracy and Active Citizenship: This is the capstone course of the Liberal and Civic Studies Program. It involves a careful examination of the assumptions upon which democracy is based and the work of citizen groups who are addressing America's social problems, from education and government to human services, jobs and the media. The course also examines the possible challenges that the current generation will face in the future. Students complete a research project that is designed to integrate L&CS core courses with service-learning work, and culminates in a formal paper and group presentation to the SMC community. This course has a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites: L&CS 123*

130 Senior Capstone II (.50)

Students take this course in the semester immediately after **Senior Capstone I**. The course, which consists of eight sessions, assists students in preparing their academic portfolios and themselves for their assessment interview, which occurs in the latter part of the semester. *Prerequisites: Senior Capstone I*

192 Text-Based Discussion in the Middle School Classroom (.25)

This field-based course trains and gives students hands-on experience in facilitating seminar-style, text-based discussion groups for children. After introductory training workshops, students will lead such discussion groups on-site in a middle-school classroom. Students will learn about and practice an educational style that develops critical skills, speaking, reading, and thinking in open discussion. This course is required of all Teachers for Tomorrow students. Education track students would benefit from this course, as well. This course must be taken before **Senior Capstone II**.